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| ) D.C. 20231, on this date.                            |
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| MAY 0 6 2003   |
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| ) Attorney for Applicants                              |
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## RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT AND ELECTION OF SPECIES

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated March 26, 2003 in the above-identified application in which the Examiner requested election of a species within the invention. Specifically, the Examiner restricted the claims to three groups: Group I comprising claims 1-10, 26-33 and 35; Group II comprising claims 11 and 12; and Group III comprising claims 13-25, 34 and 36-38. In response to the request, Applicants elect Group I with traverse subject to Applicants' right to refile the non-elected subject matter in a divisional application. Further, Applicants neither admit nor deny the Examiner's statements regarding EP 0 747 397 A2.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any issues of form or substance in order to expedite allowance of the pending application, she is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN

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